Upgradition of Madersa/Pathshala Education

3171. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise , vocationalise or upgrade madersa and pathshala education;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) the proposed outlay during the current year and the ensuing Five Year Plan; and

(d) the estimated number of beneficiaries in terms of educational institutions and students?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government propose to formulate a centrally sponsored scheme of financial assistance to modernize Madersa education. However, there is no proposal under consideration to vocationalise or upgrade Madersa/Pathshala education.

(b) to (d). The proposed scheme has not been approved. Therefore, the question of proposing outlay and estimating number of beneficiaries does not arise.

Assessment of Technology Mission on Health

3172. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any assessment of implementation of the Technology Mission on Health for all by 2000 A.D. ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). No Technology Mission on Health All by 2000 A.D. has been set up. However, there exists a Technology Mission on Immunization which *Inter alia* envisages protection of pregnant women and at least 85% (100% w.e.f. 1990-91) infants against six vaccine preventable diseases, namely tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, tuberculosis, Measles and poliomyslitis, every year.

2. Assessment of the implementation of the Programme is made from time to time at various levels including coverage evaluation surveys done by independent agencies. These assessments/ studies revealed that the protection available to infants and mothers has been steadily increasing over the years. A consequent decline in the incidence of the target diseases has also been reported.

3. The assessments/studies have also revealed certain constraints in the implementation of the Programme. These inter alia include reluctance of women to take drugs/injections during pregnancy leading to lower acceptance of tetanus toxide antigen for pregnant women and superstitions inhibiting acceptance of the measles antigen. The studies have also revealed existence of some gap between the evaluated coverage levels and the coverage levels that are reported by the States.

Curriculum of History

3173. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any

plans to bring out a new curriculum on contemporary history (1946-1996);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to undertake an elaborate exercise to prepare new curriculum for other subjects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b). The Government feel that our achievement in various fields during the almost 50 years of independence should be suitably reflected in the history courses, particularly at the school and undergraduate levels. Discussions are currently going on with the eminent historians and educationists in regard to the content and modalities necessary for the exercise.

(c)and (d) There is no proposal to prepare new curriculum for other subjects.

(e) Does not arise.

News-Item 'Majority oppose India Playing in Sharjah'

3174. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
PROF. PREM DHUMAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news item captioned "Majority oppose India playing in Sharjah" appearing in the 'Hindu dated November 16,1991 (New Delhi Edition); and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTEMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has noted the contents of this report with concern. Similar allegations have been received from other sources also. Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has been requested to give its comments on allegations contained in such reports. On receipt of further details from BCCI, Government may review its cricketing exchange with the organisers of the recent Sharjah Cricket Tournament viz. Cricketers Benefit Fund Series.

Relieving Children from "Big Bags"

3175. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government announced on the occassion of 'Children Day' this year a major move which would relieve young children of the burden of "big bags" through an appropriate and relevant change in curriculum and the education made more socially relevant; and

(b) if so, the preparatory action being taken to lesson the 'Big Bags' burden on the young and small children?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Human Resource Development will be holding discussions with parents, teachers, child psychologists, educationists, paediatric-physicians and other experts to suggest concrete steps required to be taken in this regard in a time bound manner.